

Memorial Resolution celebrating the exemplary life and work of William A. Gwatney and expressing sympathy on behalf of the people of Shelby County for his untimely passing. Sponsored by Commissioner David Lillard

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WHEREAS, William A. Gwatney was a dedicated and passionate public servant, who earned the respect and admiration of the public through his involvement in numerous political and civic causes which resulted in numerous enhancements of immeasurable value to the quality of life of his fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, In 1992, Bill Gwatney was elected to the Arkansas State Senate, where he served ably and with distinction by championing many worthy causes such as the Patient Protection Act and ethics reform legislation; and

WHEREAS, After leaving the Arkansas State Senate in 2003, Bill Gwatney served as Finance Chairman for the campaign of Governor Mike Beebe, and was subsequently elected Chairman of the Arkansas Democratic Party; and

WHEREAS, Bill Gwatney was an active volunteer in his hometown of Jacksonville, Arkansas serving as president of the Chamber of Commerce and on the boards of Pathfinder, North Metro Medical Center, and First Arkansas Bank and Trust, as a Paul Harris Fellow of Rotary International, among numerous other activities; and

WHEREAS, Bill Gwatney was a highly successful businessman as a partner in the Gwatney Companies and other successful endeavors, and his talents and ability afforded life enhancing employment to numerous citizens; and

WHEREAS, Above all, Bill Gwatney was a family man who loved his wife, his daughters and his extended family deeply; and

WHEREAS, On August 13, 2008, Bill Gwatney's life was tragically taken by a senseless act of violence; and

WHEREAS, The people of Shelby County grieve with the Gwatney family and the people of Arkansas over the loss of a beloved family man and public servant;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF SHELBY COUNTY, TENNESSEE, THE COUNTY MAYOR CONCURRING, THAT:

We celebrate the extraordinary life of William A. Gwatney who touched and immeasurably enhanced the lives of countless citizens by his service and leadership as a public servant and involved citizen; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that on behalf of the people of Shelby County, Tennessee we extend our deepest sympathies to the family of William A. "Bill" Gwatney, his parents Syble and Harold Gwatney; his wife, Rebecca Gwatney, his daughters Christian Gwatney and Chase Gwatney, his Stepchildren Emily and Zackary Rankin, his Brother Russell Gwatney of Memphis and all the other members of his extended family.

INSERT SIGNATURE LINES FOR THE CHAIRMAN, THE MAYOR AND ALL OTHER COMMISSIONERS